

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-1070/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE, Mr VERNIMMEN and
Mr VERROKEN

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the opportunities offered to the Flemish in
the French Republic

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- (a) whereas European cooperation is essentially bound up with the fulfilment of the legitimate aspiration of ethnic groups to unimpeded self-realization,
- (b) having regard to resolution (75) 13 adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 22 May 1975 and the motion of 25 August 1977 tabled by the UN Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Discriminatory Measures and the Protection of Minorities,
- (c) having regard to the Council of Europe's 'Bordeaux Declaration' of 1 February 1978 on the problems of regionalization, in particular:
- Art. 3 : Every European's right to "his region" is part of his right to be different. To challenge this right would be to challenge the identity of European man and ultimately of Europe itself;
- Art. 8 : Regionalization does not only promote 'Unity in Diversity'. It is also one of the conditions of European Unity itself;
- Art.17 : Regional development is an issue concerning all of Western Europe. Its sights must not be fixed solely on the economic aspect of development but also on the cultural and social aspects.
- Art. 29: The local and regional press and regional radio and television stations should be developed as indispensable means in the service of regional cultural autonomy,
- (d) having regard to its resolution of 16 October 1981 on a Community charter of regional languages and cultures and a charter of rights of ethnic minorities (Doc. 1-965/80), in particular recitals 1,5,6,7,8 and 9 together with the substantive section,
- (e) whereas the Flemish in the French Republic (Nord-Pas de Calais, Lille, Douai and Dunkirk) have repeatedly called for official recognition and a favourable approach by the authorities to their distinct linguistic and cultural identity,
- (f) having regard to the 'Manifesto of the Flemish French' adopted by the cultural and regional associations of Flemish French at Hazebroek on 19 December 1981 (the fourth Flemish study group),

1. Considers that, in the context of its cultural activities, the Commission should make an active contribution to the implementation of Parliament's resolution of 16 October 1981 (Doc. 1-965/80) with particular reference to the cultural identity of the Flemish in the French Republic;
2. Calls on the Government of the French Republic to acknowledge more fully the ethnic existence of the Flemish in the north-west of France by recognizing and promoting their language and culture in education, in media policy and in relations with the inhabitants of the area conducted through the local and regional authorities.
3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission of the European Communities and the Government of the French Republic.